

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 15, line 27, bridging pages 15 and 16, has been amended as follows:

--The secondary sample tubes 15 (see Figure 6) which are loaded from secondary sample tube hoppers 40 pass through a tube labelling arrangement having an automatic label printer and labeller 42. The labeller 42 applies labels to the secondary sample tubes 15 (see Figure 6) with information corresponding to information associated with the primary specimen tubes 14. The secondary sample tubes 15 are then filled with the samples aspirated from the primary specimen tubes 14 before being capped with laminated caps 44 (see Figure 7) by the capper 33 in a capping arrangement. The labelled and capped secondary sample tubes 15 are then transferred by a robotic arm (not shown) to racks (not shown) which are also placed in the distribution station 38.--

The paragraph beginning at page 19, line 20, has been amended as follows:

--Figure 7A shows the secondary sample tube capping apparatus 33 which comprises a reel 110 holding laminate tape 112 and a take up reel 114 for the tape 112 which has been used. The tape 112 passes through a punch and die assembly 116 which punches caps 44 (see Figure 7). The caps 44 are placed over the

open ends of the secondary sample tubes 15 and each laminate cap 44 is heated by the heater assembly 118 which results in the laminate cap 44 being sealed over the top of the secondary sample tubes 15. The secondary sample tubes 15 are held in holders 120 attached to a conveyer belt 122 (see Figure 9).--

The paragraph beginning at page 20, line 13, has been amended as follows:

--Figure 8A shows a perspective view of an image analysing apparatus 300 comprising a digital camera 22 and a bar code reader 20. Light from a fluorescent bulb 142 is shone on the primary specimen tube 14 and the digital camera 22 captures the shape of the tube 14 and the colour of the cap 34 reflected by a mirror 144, and the bar code reader 20 reads the bar code label 88 on the tube 14. The mirror 144 is used to view the colour of the top of the cap 34 on the tube 14 only. This allows the system to positively identify tubes 14 which have two colours on the top of the cap. The digital camera 22 also captures the dimensions of the tube 14 and the depth of the layer of the specimen to be analysed, amongst a number of layers of the specimens in the tube 14. In order that the specimen is correctly captured by the digital camera 22, a controller (not shown), upon receiving a signal from the reader 20, rotates a pair of grippers of the tube handler 46 (see Figure 1) holding the tube 14 by a predetermined angle so that the camera 22 can

capture images of the sample through a portion or window of the tube 14 not obscured by the label 88 and the tube manufacture's label (not shown).--